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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/715,205

Applicant(s)

GREEN ET AL.

Examiner

PHENUEL S. SALOMON

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-8,14,16,18-21 and 29-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-8,14,16,18-21 and 29-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/07, 9/07.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on, December 12, 2007.
2. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 14, 16, 18-21, and 29-36 are amended, claims 2, 4, 9-13, 15, 17, and 22-28 are cancelled, claims 37-54 are newly added and claims 1, 3, 5-8, 14, 16, 18-21 and 29-54 are pending.
3. The previous objections to claims 20-21 have been withdrawn pursuant to applicant amendment.
4. The rejection of claims 35 & 36 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as being indefinite has been withdrawn pursuant to applicant amendment.
5. The rejection of claims 1, 3, 5-8, 27, 29-30 and 33-34 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as directed to non-functional descriptive material has been withdrawn pursuant to applicant amendment.
6. The rejection of claims 1-3, 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being anticipated by Doss (US 2003/0046296 A1) in view of Becker (US 2002/0130904 A1) has been withdrawn pursuant to applicant amendment.
7. The rejection of claims 5-8 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being anticipated by Doss (US 2003/0046296 A1) in view of Becker (US 2002/0130904 A1) and in further view of Widger (US 2005/0117733) has been withdrawn pursuant to applicant amendment.

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8. The rejection of claims 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being anticipated by Doss (US 2003/0046296 A1) in view of Becker (US 2002/0130904 A1) and in further view of Jenkins (US 6,950,502 B1) has been withdrawn pursuant to applicant amendment.

9. The rejection of claims 29-36 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being anticipated by Doss (US 2003/0046296 A1) in view of Jenkins (US 6,950,502 B1) has been withdrawn pursuant to applicant amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1, 3, 14, 16 and 40-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doss (US 2003/0046296 A1) in view of Begole et al. (US 2004/0039630 A1) and in further view of Lee et al. (US 2003/0233265 A1).

Claim 1 Doss discloses a computer- readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program the computer program including instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to:

display, to a user an instant messaging system, a graphical user interface that, enables the user to access an instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising a window that includes a contacts list listing identifiers corresponding to multiple co-users of the instant messaging service, the

contacts list being configured to make online presence information for the co-users perceivable to the user and to enable the user to initiate communication sessions with the co-users (p.1, para [0007] and [0008]); but does not explicitly disclose

determine that an email message has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users;

in response to determining that the email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user, display, within the window that. Includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user;

determining that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and a second one of the co-users; and

in response to determining that the meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user, display, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user.

However, Begole discloses

determine that an email message has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users (*comprising a list of contacts and associated awareness information, according to an embodiment of the present invention. This awareness information can be used to gauge the corresponding user's email receptiveness*) (p. 14, para. [0180])

in response to determining that the email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user, display, within the window that. Includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user (*an indication of email receptiveness is displayed within*

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a graphical user interface of a computer system associated with the first email user, or sender) p. 15, para [0194]); Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the email exchange notification in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate data sharing as required while the user is being notified of such data transferred.

However, Lee discloses

determining that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and a second one of the co-users (*a request sent to the invitee required confirmation and confirmation is returned to the scheduling agent*) (p. 3, para. [0048]); and

in response to determining that the meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user, display, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user (*the scheduling agent send a graphical indication via the instant message*) p. 3 para [0043]) and (*a confirmation status as well as invitee status*) (p. 3, para[0048]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include meeting notification in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate meeting schedule as required while the user is being notified of such meeting.

Claim 3: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose a graphical user interface as in claim 1 above, Doss further discloses the icon is displayed only if the user selects a representation of the other user in the list of other users (p.2, para. [0018]).

Claim 14: Doss discloses a method comprising:

providing an instant messaging system to a user (Page 1, Par. [0007]) (Examiner note: The use of a network or internet makes computer service inherent);

displaying to the user of the instant messaging service a graphical user interface that enables the user to access the instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising a window that includes a contacts list listing one or more other users of the instant messaging service selected by the user as significant to the user (p.1, para. [0008]), the contacts list being configured to make online presence information for the other users perceivable to the user and to enable the user to initiate communication sessions with the other users (p.1, para. [0007]); but does not explicitly disclose

determine that an email message has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users;

in response to determining that the email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user, display, within the window that. Includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user;

determining that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and a second one of the co-users; and

in response to determining that the meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user, display, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user.

However, Begole discloses

determine that an email message has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users (*comprising a list of contacts and associated awareness information, according to an embodiment of the present invention. This awareness information can be used to gauge the corresponding user's email receptiveness*) (p. 14, para. [0180])

in response to determining that the email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user, display, within the window that. Includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user (*an indication of email receptiveness is displayed within a graphical user interface of a computer system associated with the first email user, or sender*) p. 15, para [0194]]; Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the email exchange notification in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate data sharing as required while the user is being notified of such data transferred.

However, Lee discloses

determining that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and a second one of the co-users (*a request sent to the invitee required confirmation and confirmation is returned to the scheduling agent*) (p. 3, para. [0048]); and

in response to determining that the meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user, display, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user (*the scheduling agent send an graphical indication via the instant message*) p. 3 para [0043]) and (*a confirmation status as well as invitee status*) (p. 3,para[0048]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include meeting notification in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate meeting schedule as required while the user is being notified of such meeting.

Claim 16: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose a method as in claim 14 above, Doss further discloses comprising displaying the icon when the user scrolls over a representation of the other user in the contacts list of other users (p. 2, para. [0018] lines 9-12).

Claim 37: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose the computer-readable medium of claim 1 above, wherein the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display, within the window that includes the contacts list but do not explicitly disclose in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user include instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display the second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user and concurrently with the first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user.

However, Lee discloses

in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user include instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display the second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user (p.3, para. [0043] and[0048]) [sending request to the invitees] One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate meeting schedule as required while the user is being notified of such meeting.

However, Begole discloses

concurrently with the first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user (p.14, para [0180]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to monitor a user interaction with other members of the list.

Claim 38: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose the method of claim 14, but do not explicitly disclose wherein:

displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user includes displaying the first indication adjacent to the identifier in the contacts list that corresponds to the first co-user; and

displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user includes displaying the second indication adjacent to the identifier in the contacts list that corresponds to the second co-user.

However, Begole discloses

a first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user includes displaying the first indication adjacent to the identifier in the contacts list that corresponds to the first co-user (p.14, para [0180] and fig.13b,c). One would have been motivated to do so in order to monitor a user interaction with other members of the list.

However, Lee discloses

a second indication that reflects that a meeting has been scheduled that involves the user and the second co-user includes displaying the second indication adjacent to the identifier in the contacts list that corresponds to the second co-user (p.3, para [0043],[0048] and fig. 4). One would have been motivated to do so in order to let contacts on the list aware of a co-user schedule.

Claim 39: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose the method of claim 14 above, but do not disclose:

determining that an email message has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users includes determining that an email message was sent by the user to the first co-user; and

displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user includes displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message was sent by the user to the first co-user (p. 15, para [0194]) [It's inherent that if the user can transmit e-mail to the first co-user, it may as well apply vice-versa].

However, Begole discloses

determining that an email message has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users includes determining that an email message was sent by the user to the first co-user (*comprising a list of contacts and associated awareness information, according to an embodiment of the present invention. This awareness information can be used to gauge the corresponding user's email receptiveness,*) (p. 14, para [0180] & [0194]) [It's inherent that if the user can transmit e-mail to the first co-user, it may as well apply vice-versa]

displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user includes displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message was sent by the user to the first co-user (*an indication of email receptiveness is displayed within a graphical user interface of a computer system associated with the first email user, or sender*) (p. 15, para [0194]) [It's inherent that if the user can transmit e-mail to the first co-user, it may as well apply vice-versa];
Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the email exchange notification in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate data sharing as required while the user is being notified of such data transferred.

Claim 40: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose the method of claim 14 above, but do not disclose;

determining that an email message has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users includes, determining that an email message was sent by the first co-user to the user.

displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message was sent by the between the user and the first co-user includes displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message was sent by the first co-user to the user user.

However, Begole discloses

determining that an email message has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users includes, determining that an email message was sent by the first co-user to the user (p. 14, para [0180] & [0194]).

displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message was sent by the between the user and the first co-user includes displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message was sent by the first co-user to the user user (p. 15, para [0194]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate data sharing as required while the user is being notified of such data transferred.

Claim 41: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose the method of claim 14 above, but do not explicitly disclose:

determining, that an email message has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users includes determining that an email message was sent by the user ; and

displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user includes displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message was sent by the user to the first co-user (p. 15, para [0194]); and the method: further comprises:

determining that a third one of the co-users has sent an email message to the user; and

in response to determining that the third co-user sent an email message to the user, displaying, within the window, that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the third co-user, a third indication that reflects that the third co-user sent an email message to the user (p. 14, para [0180] & [0194]) [The system can repeat the same process for a multitude of users].

However, Begole discloses

determining, that an email message has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users includes determining that an email message was sent by the user (p. 14, para [0180] and p. 15 para. [0194]); and

displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user includes displaying a first indication that reflects that an email message was sent by the user to the first co-user (p. 15, para [0194]); and the method: further comprises:

determining that a third one of the co-users has sent an email message to the user; and
in response to determining that the third co-user sent an email message to the user, displaying, within the window, that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the third co-user, a third indication that reflects that the third co-user sent an email message to the user (p. 14, para [0180] & [0194]) [The system can repeat the same process for a multitude of users]. One would have been motivated to do so in order to better monitor each other activity on the contacts.

Claim 42: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose the method of claim 14 above, Begole further discloses:

determining that a third one of the co-users has left a voicemail message for the user; and
in response to determining that the third co-user left a voicemail message for the user displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list, and in association with the identifier corresponding, to the third co-user, a third indication that reflects, that the third co-user left a voicemail message for the user.

However, Begole discloses

determining that a third one of the co-users has left a voicemail message for the user (*similar graphics are also readily applicable to indicate receptiveness to other communication media as well*) (fig. 13a, item 1340 and p.15, para [0184]); and

in response to determining that the third co-user left a voicemail message for the user displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list, and in association with the identifier corresponding, to the third co-user, a third indication that reflects ,that the third co-user left a voicemail message for the user (*similar graphics are also readily applicable to indicate receptiveness to other communication media as well*) (p.15, para [0184]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to better monitor each other activity on the contacts the most frequently used communication media.

Claim 43: The claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 37, and is rejected along the same rationale.

12. Claims 5-8 and 18-21 and 53-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doss (US 2003/0046296 A1) in view of Begole et al. (US 2004/0039630 A1), in further view of Lee et al. (US 2003/0233265 A1) and in further view of Widger (US 2005/0117733).

Claim 5: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose the computer- readable medium of claim 1, wherein the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user include instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display the first indication, but do not explicitly disclose an unread email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user. However, Widger discloses in “Fig. 7, an example of a system tray showing an icon that identifies to the user that new messages have been received” (p. 6, par.[0045]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a new message icon in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to assure notification and fast access to email message.

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Claim 18: The claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 5, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 6: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose the computer- readable medium of claim 1, wherein the instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user include instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display the first indication reflects but do not explicitly disclose a number of unread email messages that have been exchanged between the user and first co-user. However, Widger discloses "a message notification icon...with associated number of messages received" (Examiner note: Since the message icon displayed the number of messages received; therefore the number of unread email message is inherent.) (p. 5, par.[0038]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to notify the user in Doss about the number of messages received. One would have been motivated to add that feature in order to enable the user to quickly and efficiently handle received email messages.

Claim 19: The claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 6, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 7: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose the computer- readable medium of claim 5, wherein the computer program further includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to but do not explicitly disclose open or activate an application to read the unread email message when the first indication is selected by the user. However, Widger discloses "a message notification portion when clicking on the icon accesses the associated application" (p. 5, par. [0038]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include that feature into Doss. One

would have been motivated to add that feature in order to quickly access and review one's email content without interruption.

Claim 20: The claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 7, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 8: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose computer- readable medium of claim 5, wherein the computer program further includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to but does not explicitly disclose open activate an application listing multiple email messages exchanged between the user and the first co-user. However, Widger discloses "a message notification icon...with associated number of messages received" (p. 5, par. [0038]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a new message icon that shows listing of multiple e-mail messages in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to better organize the email message inbox.

Claim 21: The claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 8, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 53: Doss discloses a method comprising:

displaying, to a user of an instant messaging service, a graphical user interface that enables the user to access the instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising a window that includes a contacts list listing, instant messaging screen names for co-users of the instant messaging service the contacts list, being configured to make online presence information for the co-users

perceivable to, the user and to enable the user to initiate communication sessions with the co-users (p.1, para [0007] and [0008]);

However, Begole discloses

exchanging the email address determined to correspond to the screen name for the at least one co-user with an email client application of the user and requesting notification from the user's email client when the user sends an email to or receives an email from the email address determined to correspond to the screen name for the at least one co-user (p.15, para. [0191]);

receiving a notification from the user's email client application that the user has sent an email to or received an email :from the email address determined to correspond to the screen name of the at least one co-user (p. 15, para. [0194]); and

in, response to receiving the notification from the user's, email client application, displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the screen name for the at least one co-user, an indication, that reflects that the user has sent an email to or received an email from the email address determined to correspond to the screen name of the at least one co-user (*an indication of email receptiveness is displayed within a graphical user interface of a computer system associated with the first email user, or sender*) p. 15, para [0194]); Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the email exchange notification in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate data sharing as required while the user is being notified of such data transferred.

But do not explicitly disclose

for at least one of the co-users of the instant messaging service having a screen name listed in the contacts list, determining an email address that corresponds to the screen name for the co-user;

However, Lee discloses:

invitee methods are used such as selecting invitees from a master list which indirectly provide a list of name (p. 2, para. [0039]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the Lee feature in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate proper email identification of the communicating party.

Claim 54: Doss, Begole and Lee disclose the method of claim 53 above but do not disclose comprising:

for another co-user of the instant messaging service having a screen name listed in the contacts list, determining another email address that corresponds to the screen name for the other co-user;

exchanging the other email address determined to correspond to the screen name for the other co-user with the email client application of the user and requesting notification from the user's email client when the user sends an email to or receives an email from the other email address determined to correspond to the screen name for the other co-user;

receiving a notification from the user's email client application that the user has sent an email to or received an email from the other email address determined to correspond to the screen name of the other co-user and

in response to receiving the notification from the user's email client application, displaying; within the window that includes the contacts list, in association with the screen name for the other co-user, and concurrently with the indication that reflects that the user has sent email to or received an email from the email address determined to correspond to the screen name of the at least one co-user, another indication that reflects that the user has sent an email to or received an email from the other email address determined to correspond to the screen name of the other co-user.

However, Lee discloses:

for another co-user of the instant messaging service having a screen name listed in the contacts list, determining another email address that corresponds to the screen name for the other co-user

(selecting invitees from a master list and entering invitee web address instead of their name) (p. 2, para. [0039]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate proper email identification of the communicating party;

However, Begole discloses:

exchanging the other email address determined to correspond to the screen name for the other co-user with the email client application of the user and requesting notification from the user's email client when the user sends an email to or receives an email from the other email address determined to correspond to the screen name for the other co-user (p.15, para. [0191]);

receiving a notification from the user's email client application that the user has sent an email to or received an email from the other email address determined to correspond to the screen name of the other co-user *(updating electronic mail receptiveness information of the plurality of users)* (p.15, para. [0192]) and

in response to receiving the notification from the user's email client application, displaying; within the window that includes the contacts list, in association with the screen name for the other co-user (p. 16, para. 205]), and concurrently with the indication that reflects that the user has sent email to or received an email from the email address determined to correspond to the screen name of the at least one co-user, another indication that reflects that the user has sent an email to or received an email from the other email address determined to correspond to the screen name of the other co-user *(an indication of email receptiveness is displayed within a graphical user interface of a computer system associated with the first email user, or sender)* p. 15, para [0194]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to let contacts on the list aware of co-user activities.

15. Claims 29-36 and 44-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doss (US 2003/0046296 A1) in view of Lee et al. (US 2003/0233265 A1).

Claim 29: Doss discloses a computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program, the computer program including instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to:

display, to a user of an instant messaging, service, a graphical user interface that enables the user to access the instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising: comprising a window that includes a contacts list listing identifiers for one or more other users of the instant messaging service: selected by the user as significant to the user, the contacts list being configure to make online presence information for the other, users perceivable to the user and to enable the user to initiate communication sessions with the other users (p. 1, para [0007] and [0008]), and display, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with an identifier for one of the other users in the contacts list (p.2, para [0015], [0016]) and (fig. 7), but does not explicitly disclose an icon that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the other user and that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the other user. However, Lee discloses (a request sent to the invitee required confirmation and confirmation is returned to the scheduling agent a confirmation status as well as invitee status) (p. 3, para. [0048]) and (graphically indicates to the user information about the meeting) (p. 3 para [0043]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include meeting notification in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate meeting schedule as required while the user is being notified of such meeting.

Claim 30: Doss and Lee disclose the computer-readable medium of claim 29, but do not explicitly discloses the computer program further includes instructions that when executed, cause a computer to open or activate an application to view additional information regarding the meeting when the user selects the icon. However, Lee discloses graphically indicates to the user information about the meeting request

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such as name and title of the meeting (p. 3 para [0043]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include meeting information in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to notify the user about the meeting in case user has any suggestions.

Claim 31: The claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 29, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 32: The claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 30, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 33: Doss and Lee disclose the computer readable medium of claim 29 above, but do not explicitly disclose the instructions, that, when executed, cause computer to display an icon that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the other user and that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the other user include instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display an icon that indicates that the calendar event has been scheduled by the other user. However Lee discloses alert indicating a user that he has a to-do list and confirmation is requested for that particular task (p. 3, para [0043] and [0048]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include meeting schedule in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to notify the user about the meeting so user can decide whether to attend or not.

Claim 34: Doss and Lee disclose The computer readable medium of claim 29, above, Doss further discloses The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein the instructions, that, when executed,

cause computer to display an icon that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user: and the other user and that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the other user include instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display an icon that indicates the calendar event has been scheduled by the user. (p. 2, para [0015] and [0016]).

Claim 35: Doss and Lee disclose The method of claim 31 above, but do not disclose displaying an icon that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the other user and that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the other user includes displaying an icon that indicates that the calendar event has been scheduled by the other user. However, Lee discloses meeting request alert to a particular user and display icon upon confirmation (p. 3, para [0043]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to monitor co-users availability.

Claim 36: Doss and Lee disclose the method of claim 31 above, Doss further discloses displaying an icon that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the other user and that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the other user includes displaying an icon that indicates that the calendar event has been scheduled by the user. (p. 2, para [0015] and [0016]).

Claim 44: Doss and Lee disclose the computer readable medium of claim 29 above but does not disclose comprising instructions that, when executed cause a computer to display, within the window that includes the contacts list, in association with an identifier for an additional one of the other users in the contacts list, and concurrently with the icon that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the other user and that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the other user, another icon that indicates that another meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the additional user and that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the additional user.

However, Lee discloses concurrently with the icon that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the other user and that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the other user (p. 3, para. [0048]), another icon that indicates that another meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the additional user and that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the additional user (p. 3, para [0043]) [alert sets and indication on the to-do list of the user implies that all the schedule events will show on the users list]. One would have been motivated to do so in order to monitor co-users availability.

Claim 45: Doss and Lee disclose the method of claim 31 above further comprising displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list, in association with an identifier for an additional one of the other users in the contacts list, and concurrently with the icon that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the other user and, that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the other user, (p. 3, para. [0048]) another icon that indicates that another meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the additional user and that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the additional user (p. 3, para [0043]) [alert sets and indication on the to-do list of the user implies that all the schedule events will show on the users list].

However, Lee discloses concurrently with the icon that indicates that a meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the other user and, that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the other user, (p. 3, para. [0048]), another icon that indicates that another meeting has been scheduled that involves both the user and the additional user and that enables determination by the user that the meeting involves the additional user (p. 3, para [0043]) [alert sets and indication on the to-do list of the user implies that all the schedule events will show on the users list]. One would have been motivated to do so in order to monitor co-users availability.

13. Claims 46-49 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doss (US 2003/0046296 A1) in view of Begole et al. (US 2004/0039630 A1).

Claim 46: Doss discloses a method for informing instant messaging user that communications other than instant messages and voicemails have been received on behalf of the instant messaging user the method comprising:

displaying, to a user, an instant messaging graphical user interface that enables the user to access an instant messaging service, the graphical user interface including a window that includes a contacts list listing identifiers for multiple co-users of the instant messaging, service, the contacts list being configured, to make online presence information for the co-users perceivable to the user and to enable the user to initiate communication sessions with the co-users (p.1, para [0007] and [0008]); but does not explicitly disclose

determining that a communication that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and a particular one of the co-users having an identifier listed in the contacts list; and

in response to determining that the message that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the particular co-user, displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier for the particular co-user in the contacts list, an indication that reflects that a message that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the particular co-user.

However, Begole discloses

determining that a communication that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and a particular one of the co-users having an identifier listed in the contacts

list (Icon 1340 indicates that a contact, for example "Philip" is currently (or very recently has been) using a telephone) (p. 14, para [0180]); and

in response to determining that the message that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between file user and the particular co-user, displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier for the particular co-user in the contacts list, an indication that reflects that a message that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the particular co-user (p.14, para [0180], [0184]) [similar graphics are also readily applicable to indicate receptiveness to other communication media as well]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include different communication means in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to accommodate party using other communication media than IM or voicemail.

Claim 47: Doss and Begole disclose the method of claim 46 above Begole further discloses:

determining that a communication that is neither an instant message, nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and a particular one of the co-users having an identifier listed in the contacts list includes determining that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the particular co-user; and

displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier for the particular co-user in the contacts list, an indication bat reflects that a message that is neither an instant messenger nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the particular co-user includes displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier for the particular co-user in the contacts list, an indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the particular co-user.

However, Begole discloses

determining that a communication that is neither an instant message, nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and a particular one of the co-users having an identifier listed in the contacts list includes determining that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the particular co-user (*Bo demo room has the ability to receive email and uses cell phone*) (fig. 13 A); and

displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier for the particular co-user in the contacts list, an indication that reflects that a message that is neither an instant messenger nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the particular co-user includes displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier for the particular co-user in the contacts list, an indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the particular co-user (p.14, para [0180]) and (fig. 13 c). One would have been motivated to do so in order to accommodate party using other communication media but IM or voicemail.

Claim 48: Doss and Begole disclose the method of claim 46 above but do not explicitly disclose comprising:

determining that another communication that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and an additional one of the co-users having an identifier listed in the contacts list; and

in response to determining that the other message that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the additional co-user, displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list in association with the identifier for the additional co-user in the contacts list, and concurrently with the indication that reflects, that a message that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the particular co-user, another indication that

reflects that a message that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the additional co-user.

However, Begole discloses

determining that another communication that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and an additional one of the co-users having an identifier listed in the contacts list (John demo room has only one meeting that is scheduled) (fig. 13a)

in response to determining that the other message that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the additional co-user, displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list in association with the identifier for the additional co-user in the contacts list (fig 13A), and concurrently with the indication that reflects, that a message that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the particular co-user (*John demo room icon of a scheduled meeting*), another indication that reflects that a message that is neither an instant message nor a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the additional co-user (p.14, para [0181]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to monitor co-users activities as well as familiarize with their preferred communication.

Claim 49: Doss discloses method of enabling a user to manage multiple different communication modalities using a single graphical user interface, the method comprising:

displaying, to a user, a graphical user interface having a window that, includes a contacts list listing identifiers corresponding to multiple co-users (fig. 7); but does not disclose

determining that a first communication has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users using a first communication modality;

in response to determining that the first communication has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user using the first communication modality, displaying, within the window that includes the

contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between, the user and the first co-user using the first communication modality;

determining that a second communication has been exchanged between the user and a second one of the co-users using a second communication modality that is different than the first communication modality;

in response to determining that the second communication has been exchanged between the user and the second co-user using the second communication modality, displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with, the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the second co-user using the second communication, modality;

determining that a third communication has been :exchanged between the-user and a third one of the co-users using a third communication modality the second communication modalities; and

in response to determining that the, third communication has been exchanged between the user and the third to user using the third communication modality, displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the third co-user, a third indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the third co-user using the third communication modality.

However Begole discloses

determining that a first communication has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users using a first communication modality(scheduled meeting icon) (John demo room, fig. 13a);

in response to determining that the first communication has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user using the first communication modality, displaying, within the window that includes the

contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between, the user and the first co-user using the first communication modality(scheduled meeting icon) (John demo room, fig. 13a), p. 14, para [0184]) *(similar graphics are also readily applicable to indicate receptiveness to other communication media as well)*;

determining that a second communication has been exchanged between the user and a second one of the co-users using a second communication modality that is different than the first communication modality(email icon) (Bo demo room, fig. 13a);

in response to determining that the second communication has been exchanged between the user and the second co-user using the second communication modality, displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with, the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the second co-user using the second communication, modality (email icon) (John demo room, fig. 13a), (p. 14, para [0184]) *(similar graphics are also readily applicable to indicate receptiveness to other communication media as well)*;

determining that a third communication has been exchanged between the-user and a third one of the co-users using a third communication modality the second communication modalities (cell phone icon) (Philip mobile) (fig. 13a); and

in response to determining that the, third communication has been exchanged between the user and the third to user using the third communication modality, displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the third co-user, a third indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the third co-user using the third communication modality (p. 14, para [0184]) *(similar graphics are also readily applicable to indicate receptiveness to other communication media as well)*. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one

having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Begole feature in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to accommodate party using any type of communication media.

Claim 52: Doss and Begole disclose the method of claim 49 above but do not explicitly disclose displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the third co-user, a third indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the third co-user using the third communication modality includes displaying the third indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the third co-user using the third communication modality concurrently with both the first indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user using the first communication modality and the second indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the second co-user using the second communication modality.

However Begole discloses

a third indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the third co-user using the third communication modality (*cell phone icon*) (*Philip mobile*) (fig. 13a) includes displaying the third indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the third co-user using the third communication modality (*cell phone icon*) concurrently with both the first indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user using the first communication modality (*scheduled meeting icon*) (*John demo room*, fig. 13a) and the second indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the second co-user using the second communication modality (*email icon*) (*John demo room*, fig. 13a), (p. 14, para [0184]). One would have been motivated to do so in order to identify co-user preferred communication media.

14. Claims 50 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doss (US 2003/0046296 A1) in view of Begole et al. (US 2004/0039630 A1) and in further view of Lee et al. (US2003/0233265 A1).

Claim 50: Doss and Begole disclose the method of claim 49 above Begole further discloses:

determining that a first communication has been exchanged between the user and a first one of the co-users using a first communication modality includes determining that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first co-user using an email communication modality (*comprising a list of contacts and associated awareness information, according to an embodiment of the present invention. This awareness information can be used to gauge the corresponding user's email receptiveness*) (p. 14, para. [0180]);

displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list: and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between be user and the first co-user using the first communication modality includes displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the first co-user, a first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged between the user and the first user (*an indication of email receptiveness is displayed within a graphical user interface of a computer system associated with the first email user, or sender*) p. 15, para [0194];

determining that a second communication has been exchanged between the user and a second one of the co-users using a second communication modality that is different than the first communication modality includes determining that a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the second-user using a telephone communication modality (p. 14, para. [0184]);

displaying, within the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the second co-user using the second communication modality includes displaying, within the window that includes the contacts, list and, in association with the identifier corresponding to the second co-user, a second indication that reflects that a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the second co-user (*similar graphics are also readily applicable to indicate receptiveness to other communication media as well* (p. 14, para. [0184]);

But do not explicitly disclose

determining that a third communication has been exchanged between the user and a third one of the co-users using a third communication modality that is different than both first and the second communication modalities includes determining that a meeting request has been exchanged between the user and, the co-user using an electronic calendar communication modality; and

displaying, within the window, that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding, to the third co-user, a third indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the third co-user using the third communication modality includes displaying, with the window that includes the contacts list and in, association with the identifier corresponding to the third co-user, a third indication that reflects that a meeting request has been: exchanged between the user and the third co-user.

However, Lee discloses

determining that a third communication has been exchanged between the user and a third one of the co-users using a third communication modality that is different than both first and the second communication modalities includes determining that a meeting request has been exchanged between the user and, the co-user using an electronic calendar communication modality *a request sent to the invitee required confirmation and confirmation is returned to the scheduling agent* (p. 3, para. [0048]); and

displaying, within the window, that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the third co-user, a third indication that reflects that a communication has been exchanged between the user and the third co-user using the third communication modality includes displaying, with the window that includes the contacts list and in association with the identifier corresponding to the third co-user, a third indication that reflects that a meeting request has been exchanged between the user and the third co-user (*the scheduling agent send an graphical indication via the instant message*) p. 3 para [0043]) and (*a confirmation status as well as invitee status*) (p. 3, para[0048]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include meeting notification in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate meeting schedule as required while the user is being notified of such meeting.

Claim 51: Doss and Begole disclose the method of claim 49 above Begole further discloses comprising:

receiving an indication of a selection, by the user, of the first indication that reflects that an email message has been exchanged, between the user and the first user *comprising a list of contacts and associated awareness information, according to an embodiment of the present invention. This awareness information can be used to gauge the corresponding user's email receptiveness*) (p. 14, para. [0180]);

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the first indication launching an email application that enables the user to access the email message, exchanged between the user and the first co-user (p.15, para [0184]);

receiving an indication of a selection, by the user, of the second indication that reflects that a voicemail has been exchanged between the user and the second co-user (*similar graphics are also readily applicable to indicate receptiveness to other communication media as well*) (p.15, para [0184]);

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the second indication, launching a voicemail application that enables the user to access the voicemail exchanged between the user and the

second co-user (*similar graphics are also readily applicable to indicate receptiveness to other communication media as well*) (p.15, para [0184]); but do not explicitly disclose

receiving an indication of a selection, by the user, of the third indication that reflects that a meeting request has been exchanged between the user and the-third co-user; and

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the third indication, launching a calendar application that enables the user to access the meeting request exchanged between the user and the third co-user.

However Lee discloses

receiving an indication of a selection, by the user, of the third indication that reflects that a meeting request has been exchanged between the user and the-third co-user (*a request sent to the invitee required confirmation and confirmation is returned to the scheduling agent*) (p. 3, para. [0048]); and in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the third indication, launching a calendar application that enables the user to access the meeting request exchanged between the user and the third co-user (*the scheduling agent send an graphical indication via the instant message*) p. 3 para [0043]) and (*a confirmation status as well as invitee status*) (p. 3,para[0048]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include meeting notification in Doss. One would have been motivated to do so in order to facilitate meeting schedule as required while the user is being notified of such meeting.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed on 12/10/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive but rather moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

16. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
a. Daniell et al. (US 2004/0054735A1) discloses multi-system instant messaging (IM).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phenuel S. Salomon whose telephone number is (571) 270-1699. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.(Alternate Friday Off) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272 4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3800.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PSS
2/28/2008

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